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Identical letters dated 15 March 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 14 March 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing United States and British aggression against Iraq, as represented by the unlawful no-flight zones, and to the fact that United States and British aircraft carried out 274 sorties over the towns and villages of Iraq in the period from 1 to 7 March 2000; and he urges you to intervene with a view to halting these acts of aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Identical letters dated 14 March 2000 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq and carried out 274 sorties in the period from 1 to 7 March 2000. One hundred and thirty of these sorties were from Saudi Arabia, 110 were from Kuwait and 34 were from Turkey, as shown hereunder.

1. In the northern region 34 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1120 hours on 3 March 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Mosul, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Irbil, Aqrah, Amadiyah, Rawanduz and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1410 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1040 hours on 7 March 2000, United States and British F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Mosul, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Irbil, Aqrah, Amadiyah and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1350 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 240 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1410 hours on 2 March 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 20 missions, six of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 14 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Artawi, Qal'at Salih, Jalibah and Qurnah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1510 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1110 hours on 3 March 2000, United States and British F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 44 missions, 22 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 22 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Lasaf, Ashbajah, Shinafiyah, Artawi, Salman, Busayyah, Samawah, Amghar, Basrah, Jalibah, Nasiriyah, Shatrah, Qurnah, Amarah, Rumaythah,

Diwaniyah, Qal'at Salih and Afak areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1825 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1325 hours on 4 March 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 46 missions, 24 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 22 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Jalibah, Artawi, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Amarah, Najaf, Qurnah and Rumaythah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1605 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1410 hours on 5 March 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 34 missions, 26 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and eight from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Qurnah, Qal'at Salih, Rifa'i, Diwaniyah, Nukhayb, Salman and Lasaf areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1510 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1000 hours on 6 March 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 34 missions, 18 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 16 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Jalibah, Artawi, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Amarah, Qurnah, Ashbajah, Salman, Shatrah, Lasaf, Shinafiyah, Afak, Taqtaqanah and Rumaythah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1110 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 0710 hours on 7 March 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 62 missions, 34 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 28 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Jalibah, Artawi, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Amarah, Najaf, Samawah, Salman, Diwaniyah, Kut, Qal'at Salih and Nukhayb areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1400 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom against Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials defending the measures being taken to enforce the no-flight zones.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States of America and the United Kingdom and without any legal justification. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these countries in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British makes these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear international responsibility for actions that are deleterious to the people of Iraq.

The Government of Iraq, condemning these acts of aggression against Iraqi civilian installations, urges the Security Council to meet its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security by intervening with the governments of the countries in question with a view to inducing them to halt, end and desist from any resumption of their constant and unwarranted aggression against an independent and sovereign State.

(Signed) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq